

# Four Mile Run Bacteria TMDL Implementation Plan

1<sup>st</sup> Public Meeting  
June 11, 2003

## **PRESENTING ORGANIZATIONS:**

City of Alexandria

Arlington County

City of Falls Church

Fairfax County

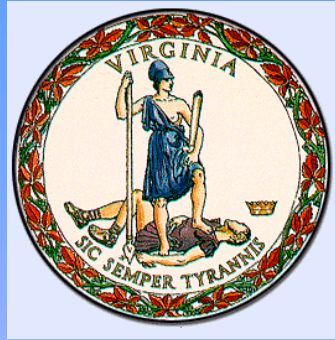
Virginia Dept. of Environmental Quality

Virginia Dept. of Conservation and Recreation

Northern Virginia Regional Commission

# Agenda

- Introductions, Master of Ceremony & Host Agency
  - Arlington County
- Background
  - Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
- Current Pollution Control Activities
  - City of Falls Church
  - Fairfax County
  - City of Alexandria
  - Arlington County
- TMDL Results & Implementation Plan Development
  - Northern Virginia Regional Commission
- Potential Funding Sources
  - Virginia Department of Environmental Quality



# **Developing an Implementation Plan for the Four Mile Run Bacteria TMDL**

First Public Meeting

June 11, 2003



# Presentation Overview

1. Overview of Virginia's TMDL Program
2. Applicable Water Quality Standard
3. Four Mile Run Impairment

# What is a TMDL ?

- TMDL stands for **Total Maximum Daily Load**
- A TMDL is a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still meet **water quality standards**
- A TMDL includes an **allocation** of that maximum amount to the pollutant's sources
- A TMDL is a **pollution budget**

# TMDL Equation

A TMDL is summarized as:

$$\text{TMDL} = \text{Sum of WLA} + \text{Sum of LA} + \text{MOS}$$

Where:

- TMDL = Total Maximum Daily Load
- WLA = Waste Load Allocation (point sources)
- LA = Load Allocation (nonpoint sources)
- MOS = Margin of Safety

# When are TMDLs needed?

- State and federal law require TMDLs to be developed for **impaired** waters
- Impaired waters do not meet applicable **water quality standards (WQS)**
- Waters that do not meet WQS do not support their **designated use(s)**
- For bacteria impairments, the designated use that is affected is the **recreational use**

# Regulatory Basis of TMDLs

- TMDLs required by Federal and State law
  - 1972 Clean Water Act (CWA), Section 303(d)
  - 1997 Water Quality Monitoring, Information and Restoration Act (WQMIRA)
- 1998 lawsuit filed by the American Canoe Association and the American Littoral Society against EPA for failure to comply with CWA §303(d) in Virginia
- 1999 Consent Decree requiring EPA and Virginia to complete 636 TMDLs by 2010



# Regulatory Requirements

- Both state and federal law require:
  - Establishment of water quality standards
  - Monitoring of water quality in surface waters
  - Assessment of water quality in surface waters
  - Listing of waters that do not meet water quality standards (impaired waters)
  - Development of TMDLs for impaired waters
- State law requires, and federal law recommends:
  - Development of a TMDL Implementation Plan

# TMDL Implementation

- After the TMDL is approved by EPA, an Implementation Plan (IP) is developed
- State and/or local agencies can lead IP development
- The IP will include staged reduction targets
  - Allows the most cost-effective measures to be implemented first
  - Allows the iterative evaluation of TMDL adequacy in achieving the water quality goals
  - The last stage may require the review of and/or changes to the Water Quality Standard

# Components of a TMDL IP

The TMDL IP will include the following:

1. Executive summary
2. Introduction
3. Summary of State and Federal IP requirements
4. Review of TMDL results
5. Description of public participation in IP development

# Components of a TMDL IP (continued)

6. List of implementation actions and associated costs, benefits and environmental impact of addressing the impairment\*
7. Measurable goals and milestones and the date of expected achievement of water quality objectives\*
8. Stakeholders' roles and responsibilities
9. Integration with other watershed planning efforts
10. Potential funding sources

*(\* Required under WQMIRA)*

# **Roles of DEQ and DCR in TMDL and IP Development**

- DEQ is the lead for TMDL development, including submittal to EPA
- DCR is the lead for most TMDL Implementation Plan (IP) development
  - DEQ is the lead agency in the development of the Four Mile Run IP
- DEQ is responsible for ensuring public participation in TMDL program

# Presentation Overview

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3. Four Mile Run Impairment

# Water Quality Standards

- Water Quality Standards (WQS):
  - set by states and approved by EPA
  - set **numeric** and **narrative** limits on pollutants
  - consist of **designated use(s)** and water quality **criteria**
- Purpose of WQS:
  - **protection** of 5 designated uses (aquatic life, fish consumption, shellfish, recreation, drinking water)
  - **restoration** of state waters to meet criteria

# Applicable Designated Use

- All surface waters in Virginia are currently designated for **primary contact recreation** (e.g. swimming)
- In March 2003, a **secondary contact recreation** use designation (e.g. wading, fishing) was added to the WQS
  - Five times the primary contact criteria
  - Individual waters will only be considered for reclassification after TMDL implementation has been tried using reasonable BMPs
  - Effective date pending EPA approval

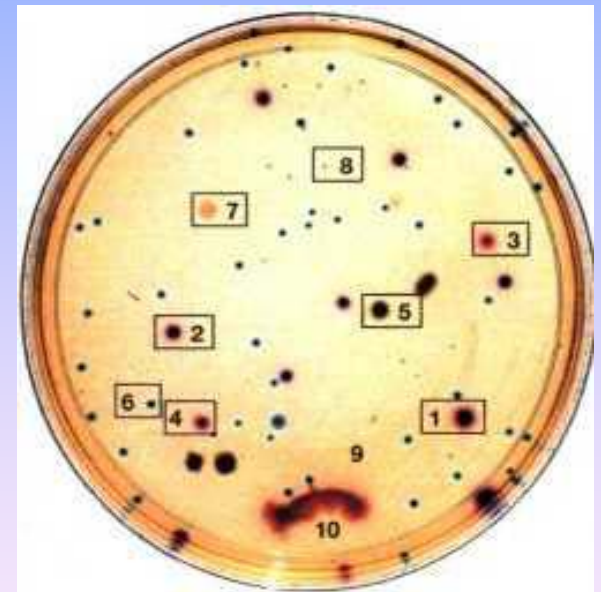


# Pollutant of Concern

- *Fecal bacteria* are found in the digestive tract of humans and warm blooded animals
- Fecal bacteria are an indicator of the potential **presence of pathogens** in waterbodies
- The presence of fecal bacteria in water samples is a strong indicator of recent **sewage or animal waste contamination**

# Sampling for Bacteria

- Stream samples are collected in sterile 125 mL sample bottles
- Samples are filtered to deposit bacteria on filters
- Filters are incubated, allowing individual bacteria to grow into visible colonies
- Colonies are counted to give a concentration of colony forming units (cfu) per 100 mL



# Old Criteria

- Indicator species: **fecal coliform**
  - used in Four Mile Run listing and TMDL development
- **Instantaneous max:**  
**1,000 cfu/100 mL**
- Applicable for data sets with 1 or fewer samples in 30 days
- Used in **water quality assessment** because monitoring is usually conducted bimonthly
- **Geometric mean:**  
**200 cfu/100 mL**
- Applicable for data sets with 2 or more samples in 30 days
- Used in **TMDL development** because model output is usually daily

# New Criteria

- Indicator species for freshwater: *E. coli*
  - change in indicator species from fecal coliform to *E. coli* (fresh water)
  - *E. coli* bacteria are a **subset of fecal coliform** bacteria and correlate better with swimming-associated illness
- **Instantaneous max:**  
**235 cfu/100 mL**
- **Geometric mean:**  
**126 cfu/100 mL**
- Applicable for all data sets; no samples may exceed the maximum
- Applicable for data sets with 2 or more samples in a calendar month

# Interim Criteria

- Indicator species: **fecal coliform**
  - will be phased out when 12 *E. coli* observations available or after June 30, 2008, whichever comes first
  - will not be used to assess compliance
- **Instantaneous max:**  
**400 cfu/100 mL**
- **Geometric mean:**  
**200 cfu/100 mL**
- Applicable for all data sets; no more than 10% of samples in a calendar month may exceed the maximum
- Applicable for data sets with 2 or more samples in a calendar month

# Summary of Changes in Primary Contact Criteria

Indicator	Status	Instantaneous Maximum (cfu/100mL)	Geometric Mean (cfu/100 mL)
Fecal Coliform	Old	1,000	200
<i>E. coli</i>	New	235	126
Fecal Coliform	Interim	400	200

- Changes went into effect on January 15, 2003
- Both New *E. coli* and Interim Fecal Coliform criteria apply
- Fecal coliform criteria will be phased out entirely once 12 *E. coli* samples have been collected or after June 30, 2008

# Comparison of the Old Fecal Coliform and New *E. coli* Criteria

Old FC (cfu/100mL)	Interim FC (cfu/100mL)	FC translated to EC* (cfu/100mL)	New EC (cfu/100mL)
200	200	129	126
	400	243	235
1,000		565	

\*Based on regression model between 493 dual data points

Note: FC = Fecal Coliform, EC = *Escherichia Coli*

# Presentation Overview

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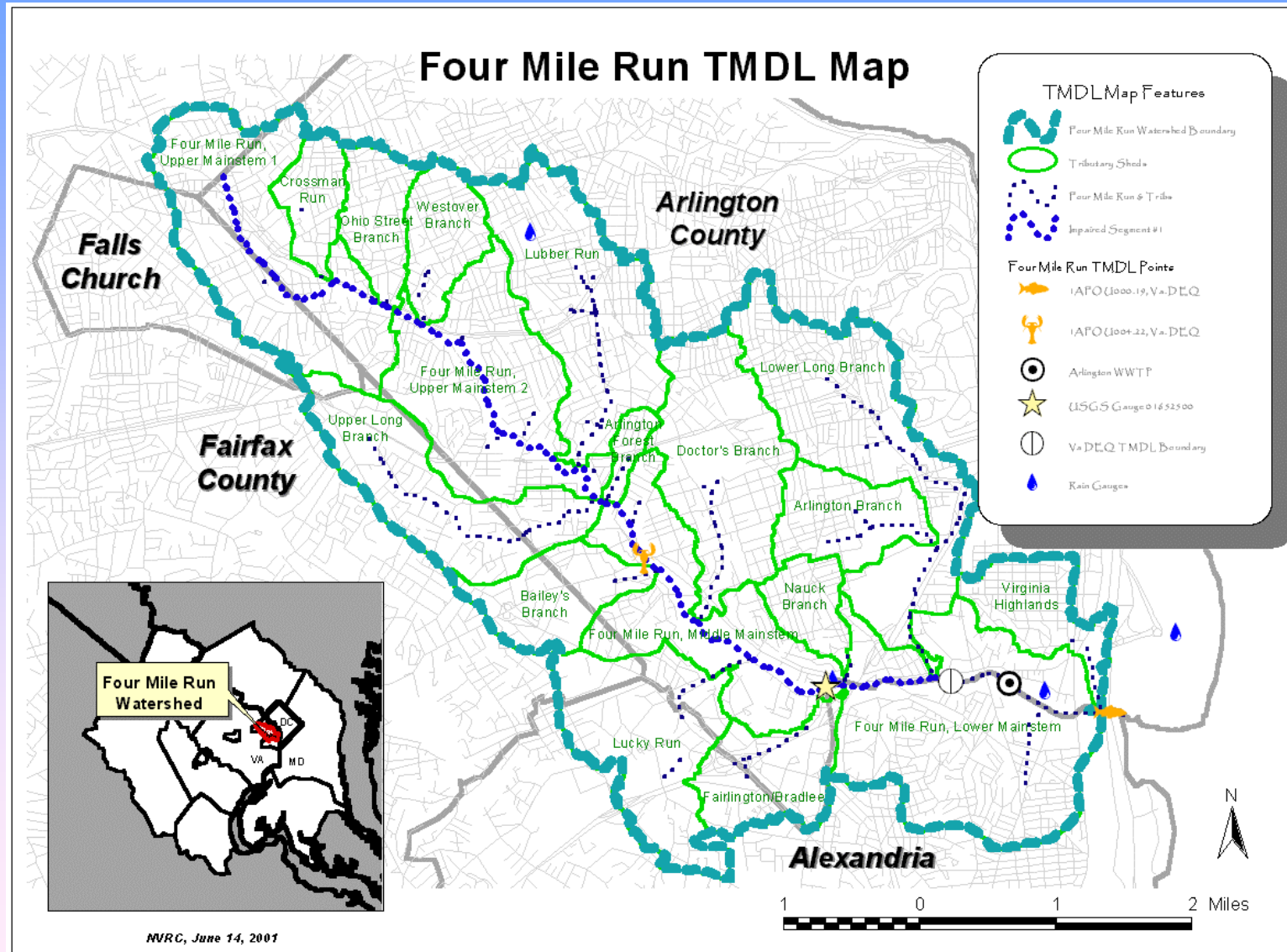
# Impairments in the Four Mile Run Watershed

Water-body	Cause	Stream Name	Size	Years Listed
VAN-A12R*	Bacteria	Four Mile Run (from headwaters to upstream of Arlington Ridge Road Bridge)	7.88 mi	1996 1998 2002
VAN-A12E**	Bacteria	Four Mile Run (from upstream limit of tidal waters to confluence with Potomac River)	0.25 sqmi	1996 1998 2002
	PCBs in Fish Tissue			2002

\* The Bacteria TMDL approved in 2002 addressed only the free flowing portion of Four Mile Run (VAN-A12R.)

\*\* The TMDL for Bacteria the tidal portion (VAN-A12E) falls under the Consent Decree and must be developed by 2010. The TMDL for PCBs in Fish Tissue in the tidal portion must be developed by 2014.

# Map of the Four Mile Run Watershed



# **Water Quality Assessment Results for Bacteria in Four Mile Run**

<b>Station : 1AFOU004.22 (Rt. 244 BRIDGE)</b>				
<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Exceed.</b>	<b>Number of Samples</b>	<b>Exceed. Rate</b>	<b>Max. Concen- tration</b>
1996	3	7	43%	8,000
1998	5	18	28%	8,000
2000	4	18	22%	5,600
2002	5	22	23%	8,000

# **Four Mile Run Bacteria TMDL IP Development Schedule**

- First Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting (May 27, 2003)
- First Public Meeting (June 11, 2003)
- Second TAC Meeting (review existing and proposed BMPs, September 2003)
- Third TAC Meeting (review draft IP report, November 2003)
- Second Public Meeting (review final draft IP report, December 2003)

# **Developing an Implementation Plan for the Four Mile Run Bacteria TMDL**

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# City of Falls Church

- Daylighting a portion of Four Mile Run
- Application for MS4 permit
- Storm drain marking
- Stream Stewards
- Neighborhood Watershed Teams
- Watershed-friendly Garden Tour
- Spring and Fall Citywide Cleanups
- Adopt-a-Street
- Operation EarthWatch
- LEED criteria for Special Exception Ordinance

# Fairfax County's Water Quality/Watershed Management Programs

- Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance (since 1993)
  - Required BMPs countywide
  - Established riparian buffer preservation and restoration - Resource Protection Areas (RPAs)
- VPDES/MS4 Permitting - Phase 1 Community (since 1997)
  - Stream and outfall water quality monitoring
  - Illicit discharge detection and elimination
- Stream Protection Strategy Program (since 1998)
  - Integrated volunteer citizen stream monitors
  - Baseline Study published January 2001
- Watershed Management Plan Development (over 5-7 yrs)
  - Comprehensive stream physical assessment completed
  - Comprehensive community involvement and outreach envisioned



# Fairfax County's Water Quality/Watershed Management Programs cont'd

- Bacteria Water Quality Monitoring
  - Over 20 yrs of fecal coliform data gathered by Health Dept.
- Wastewater Collection Line Maintenance & Inspection Programs
  - Preventative Sewer Maintenance
  - Rehabilitation of Sanitary Sewers
- Septic System Inspection, Enforcement and Management Programs
- Wildlife Management Programs (deer & geese)
- Pet Waste Ordinance (Pooper-Scooper) Program



# City of Alexandria

## ■ Water Quality Ordinances

- Chesapeake Bay
- Erosion and Sediment Control
- Water Quality Management Supplement

## ■ Four Mile Run Grant Participation

- Small Watershed Grant
- Restoration Grant

## ■ Four Mile Run Initiatives

- Work Program
- Maintenance Program

## ■ Storm Drain Inlet Marking Program

## ■ Stream Restoration and Wetland Enhancement

# **Arlington County**

## **Watershed Management Programs**

- Watershed Management Plan adopted in 2001 to:
  - Address effects of existing development on water quality and streams
  - Respond to multiple regulatory mandates, from TMDLs to MS4 to C2K
- New programs include: expanded street sweeping/catch basin cleaning; storm sewer inspections; increased construction inspection; stream restoration/BMP retrofitting; volunteer monitoring; education
- Stormwater utility study to be conducted in 2003
- Comprehensive revision of ChesBay Ordinance in 2003

# **Arlington County**

## **Watershed Management Programs (cont.)**

- Programs targeting potential or actual bacteria sources include:
  - Dry weather inspections under MS4 and optical brightener monitoring with NVRC
  - Sanitary sewer rehab. program: 35 miles of 474 mile system relined since 1991; new Sanitary Sewer Master Plan recommends increase in rehab. rate from 1% to 1.5% per year.
  - Education campaign in Arlington cinemas that includes pet waste cleanup message

For more info., visit:

[www.co.arlington.va.us/des/epo/epo\\_main.htm](http://www.co.arlington.va.us/des/epo/epo_main.htm)

# Implementation Plan for Bacteria TMDL for Four Mile Run

Public Meeting - June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2003  
Fairlington Community Center, Arlington, Virginia

Bill Hicks, P.E.  
Northern Virginia Regional Commission

# Presentation

- Larger Context of Four Mile Run
- Specifics of Four Mile Run TMDL
- Project: Implementation Plan
- Questions & Discussion



# Active Four Mile Run Projects

- Eco-Teams (ACE)
- Flood Control Project (1974)
  - Work Program (NVRC) & Maintenance (Arlington / Alexandria)
- Restoration Project
  - Arlington / Alexandria / US EPA Grant
  - US ACE Involvement
- State Storm Sewer Regulations - VPDES MS4 Permits
- Stream Stewards (ACE)
- Stream Restoration
- Stream Cleanups
- Tree Planting
- WWTP Capital Improvements

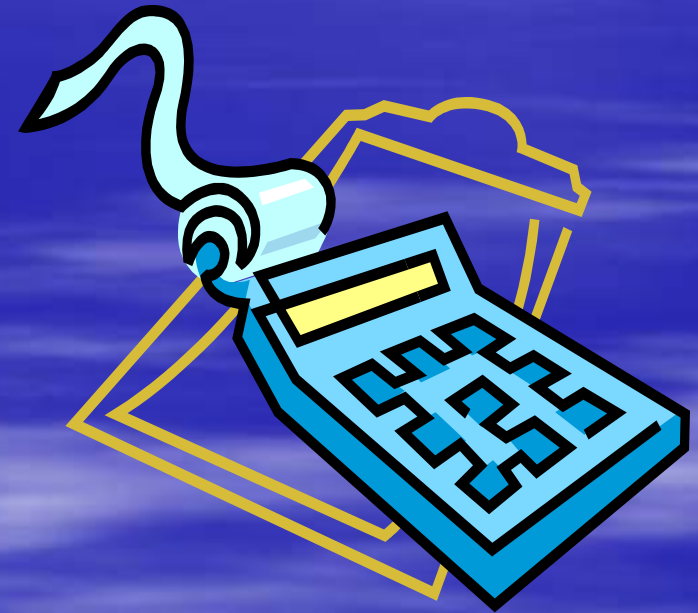


# The TMDL Package



# ¿ TMDL ?

- “Total Maximum Daily Load”
- TMDLs are tied to a specific Water Quality Standard
- Water Pollution Budget
  - *for a Specific Pollutant*
  - *in a Specific Waterbody*





*Point*

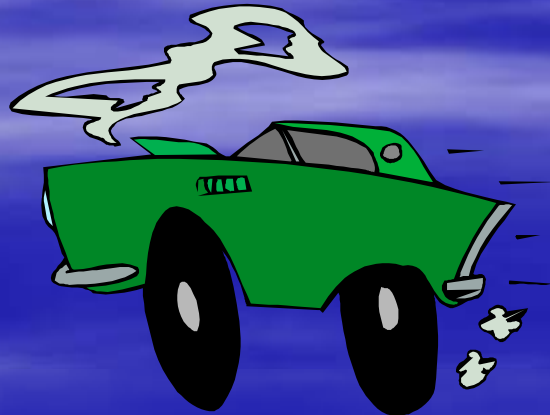


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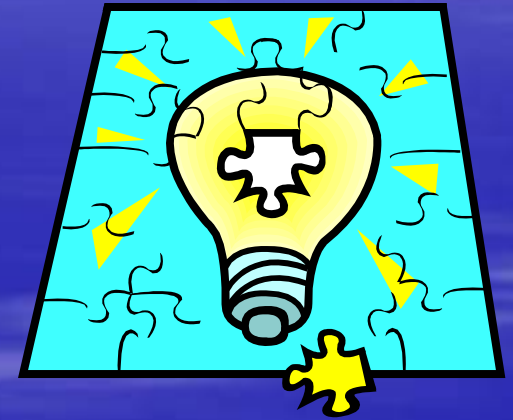
*Nonpoint*

*Source Pollution*



# Four Mile Run Issues

- Quantity of Water
- Sediment Transport
- Litter / Floatables
- Excess Nutrients
- Public Access & Perception
- Water Quality Standards



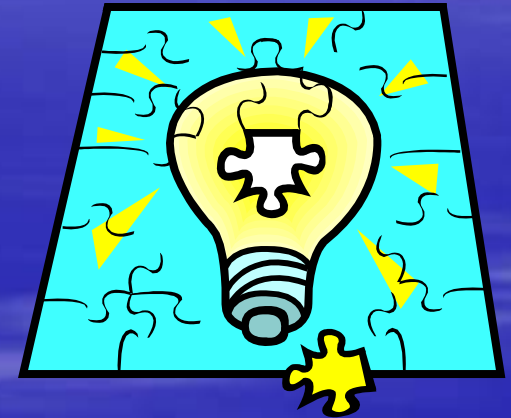
# Diagnosis Please!



# Urbanization!

# Of the Four Mile Run Issues...

- ~~Quantity of Water~~
- ~~Sediment Transport~~
- ~~Litter / Floatables~~
- ~~Excess Nutrients~~
- ~~Public Perception~~
- Water Quality Standards
  - Bacteria





# Water Quality Criteria of Concern

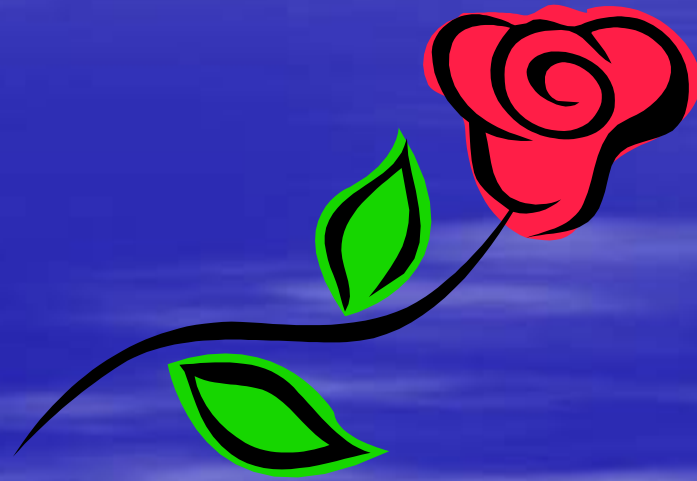
- Old Fecal Coliform Standard
  - Instantaneous Maximum 1000 MPN/100mL
  - Geometric Mean 200 MPN/100mL
  - 2 plus samples / 30 Days
- Interim Fecal Coliform Standard
  - Instantaneous Maximum 400 cfu/100mL
  - Geometric Mean 200 cfu/100mL
- New E. coli Standard
  - Instantaneous Maximum 235 cfu/100mL
  - Geometric Mean 126 cfu/100mL





# A rose by any other name would smell as sweet. Well...

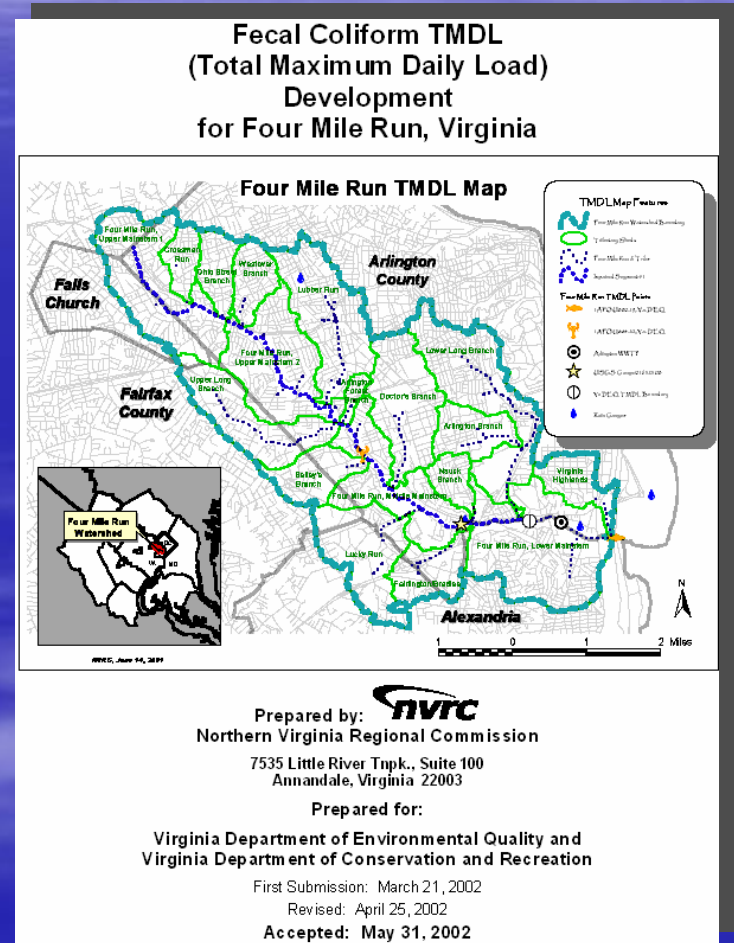
- Fecal Coliform
  - Indicator
  - Old Standard
  - Interim Standard
  - Approved TMDL



- E. Coli
  - New Standard
  - Reevaluation
- It's a Bacteria Standard

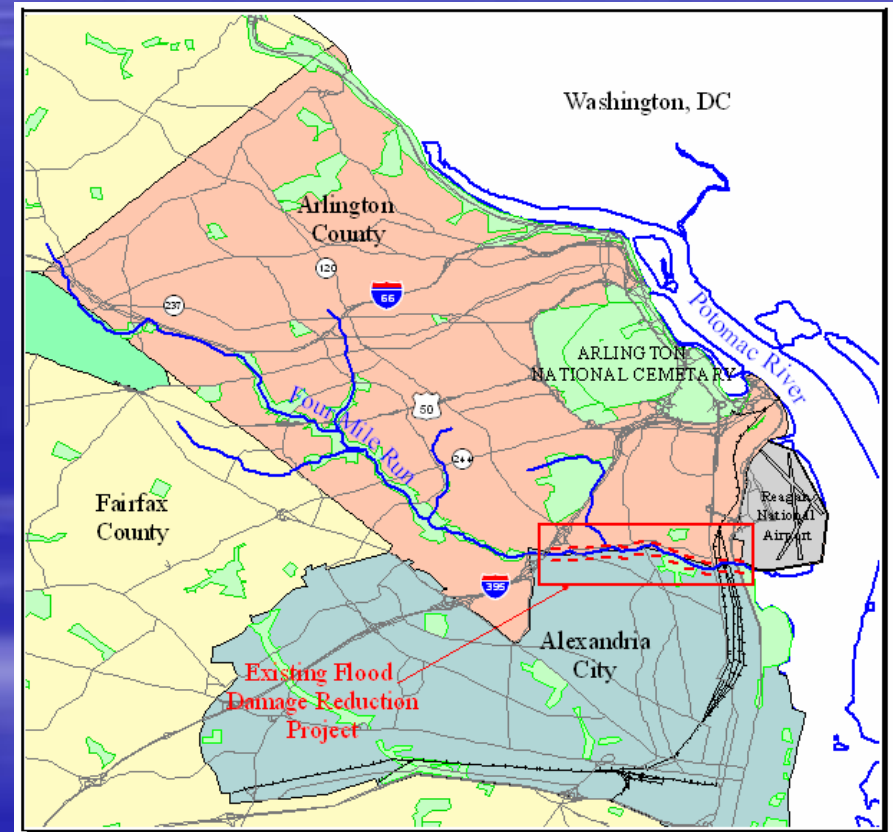
# Four Mile Run & its TMDL

- 1996 VA DEQ - 303d List
- Impairment: Fecal Coliform
- 1998 VA DEQ - 303d List
  - And since...
- 1999 Consent Decree
- TMDL Developed (2001 – 2002)
- Approved by EPA May 31, 2002
- **Implementation Plan...**



# Bio: Four Mile Run

- Approximately 9 miles long
- Discharges to Potomac River
- Last 2.3 miles is contained in a Flood Control Channel
- Last 1.5 miles are tidal

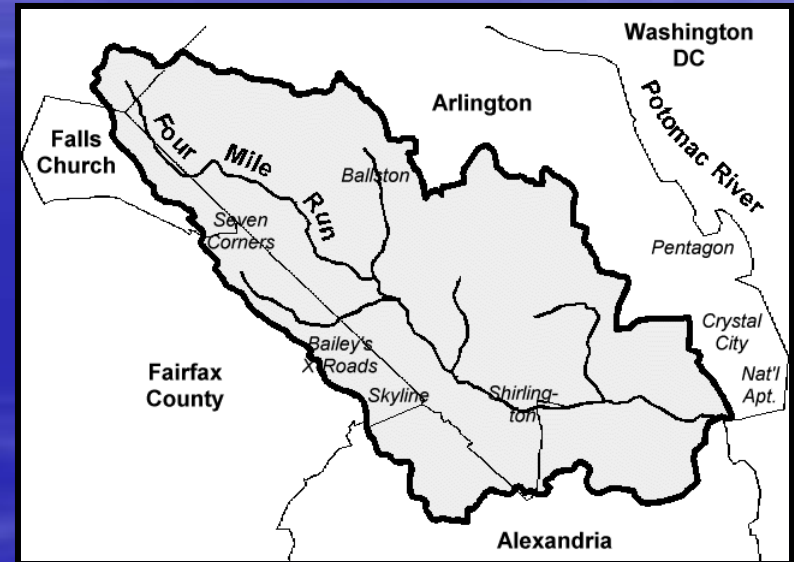


Courtesy of USACE



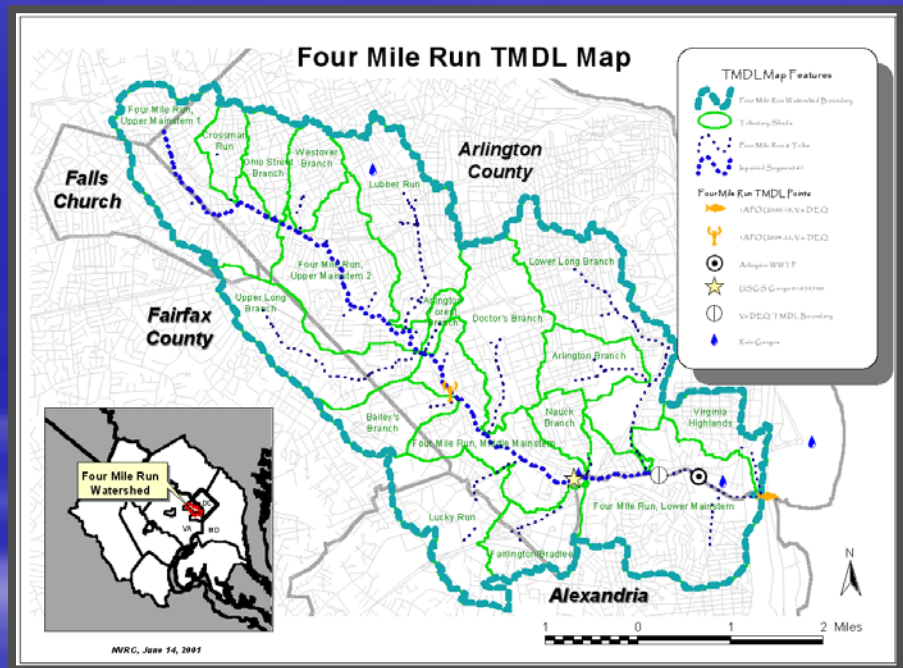
# Bio: Four Mile Run Watershed

- 19.7 Square Miles
- Portions of
  - Arlington County
  - Fairfax County
  - City of Alexandria
  - City of Falls Church
- 100% Urbanized



# Four Mile Run TMDL

- TMDL
  - Nontidal portion
  - Length 7.5 miles
  - Watershed 17.0 square miles
- Only 1 permitted point source (pH limit)
- Note: The Arlington County Water Pollution Control Plant lies outside the limits of TMDL



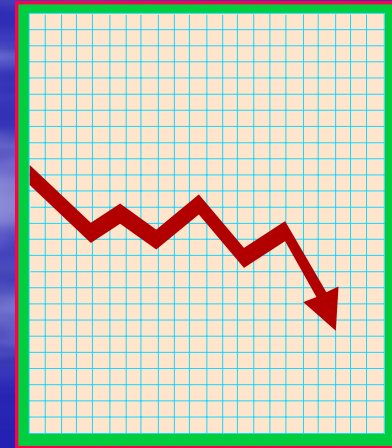
# TMDL

Total Maximum Daily Load =

- + Waste Load Allocations [Point Source]
- + Load Allocations [Nonpoint Source]
- + Margin of Safety [5 Percent]

# Data Acquisition

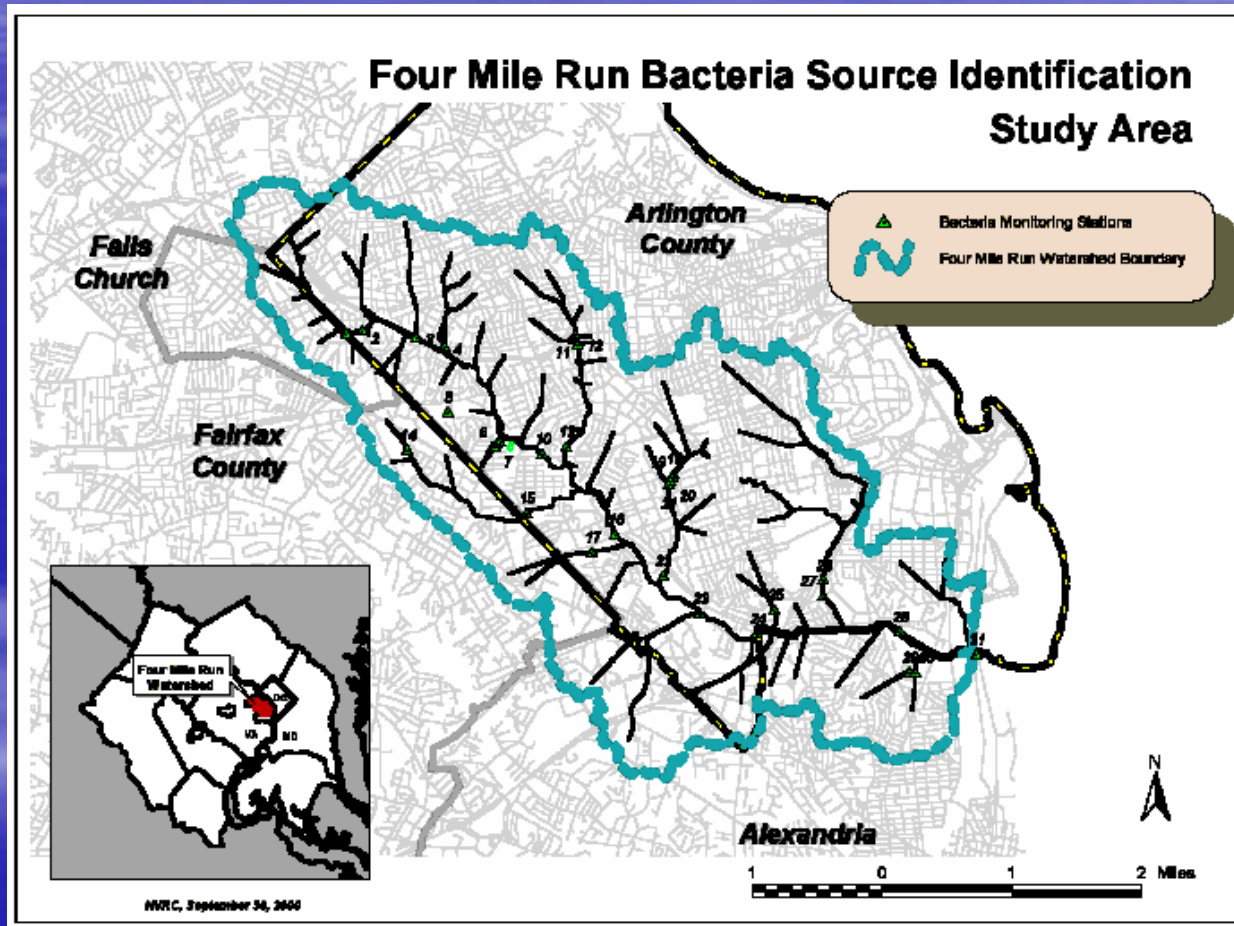
- Who were the contributors?
- Where are they?
- How much do they contribute?
- Etc.





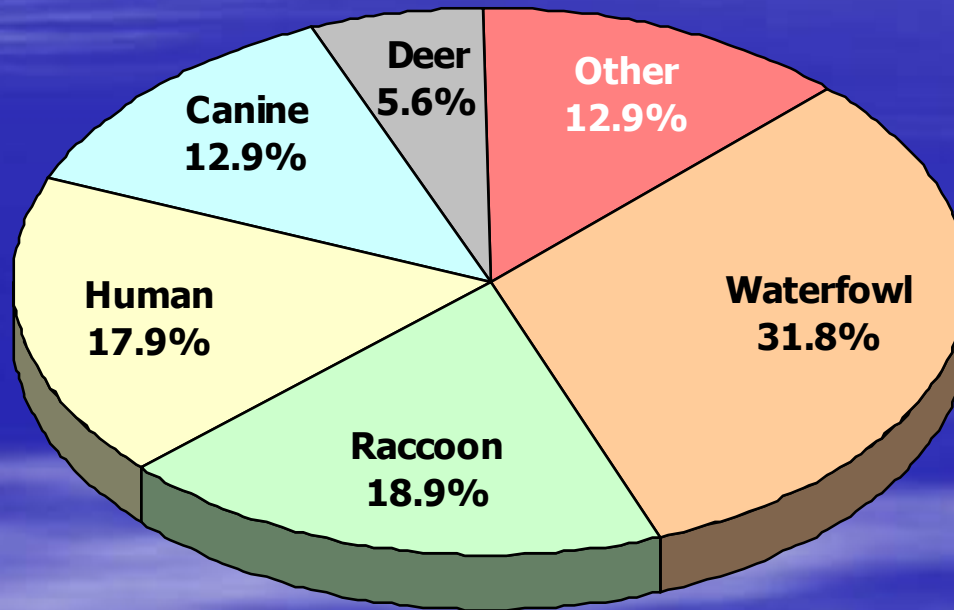
# DNA Source Tracking Study

## 1998



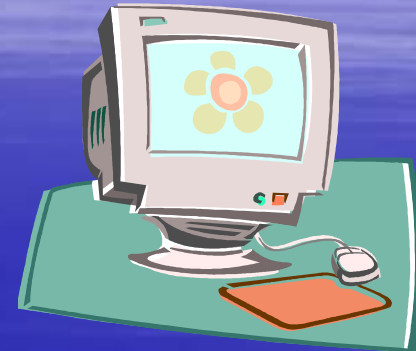
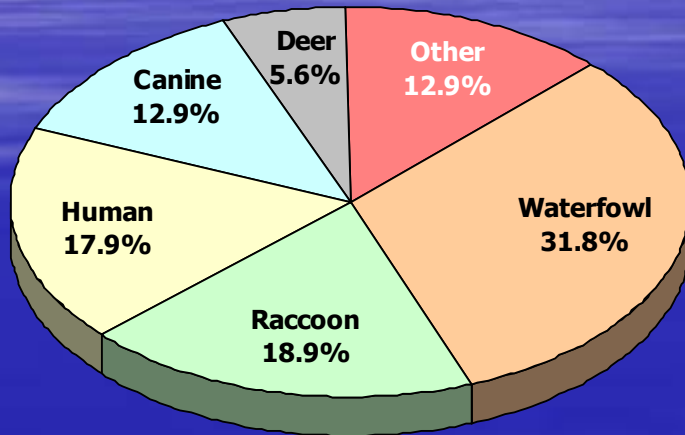
Analyzed by Pulsed Field Gel Electrophoresis (PFGE) method.

# Fecal Coliform Sources in Four Mile Run



*Four Mile Run BST Results,  
1999-2001 (N=292)*

# Fecal Coliform Sources



**Annual Fecal Coliform Loadings (counts/year) Used for Developing the Fecal Coliform TMDL for Four Mile Run**

Parameter	WLA	LA	MOS*	TMDL
Fecal coliform	2.04E+13	9.61E+14	4.91E+13	1.03E+15
* Five percent of the TMDL				

# Bacteria TMDL for Four Mile Run

**Annual Fecal Coliform Loadings (counts/year) Used for Developing  
the Fecal Coliform TMDL for Four Mile Run**

<b>Parameter</b>	<b>WLA</b>	<b>LA</b>	<b>MOS*</b>	<b>TMDL</b>
Fecal coliform	2.04E+13	9.61E+14	4.91E+13	1.03E+15
* Five percent of the TMDL				



# Using Geometric Mean Criteria

(200 MPN/100mL – 5%)

	Reduction in Loadings from Existing Conditions (%)					% days Geometric Mean > than 190 MPN/100mL
	Waterfowl	Raccoon	Human	Dog	Other Wildlife	
Existing Conditions	0	0	0	0	0	65
Scenario 1	0	0	95	95	0	54
Scenario 2	50	50	95	95	0	41
Scenario 3	80	80	98	98	80	8
<b>Scenario 4</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>0</b>

# From a TMDL to an Implementation Plan

Translate the Water  
Pollution Budget into  
“Actionable Items”



# ¿ Task at Hand ?

- *Develop an Implementation Plan for the Fecal Coliform TMDL approved for Four Mile Run.*
- It is not to change the designated use of Four Mile Run through a Usability Attainment Analysis (UAA).
- And Really only for Phase 1...



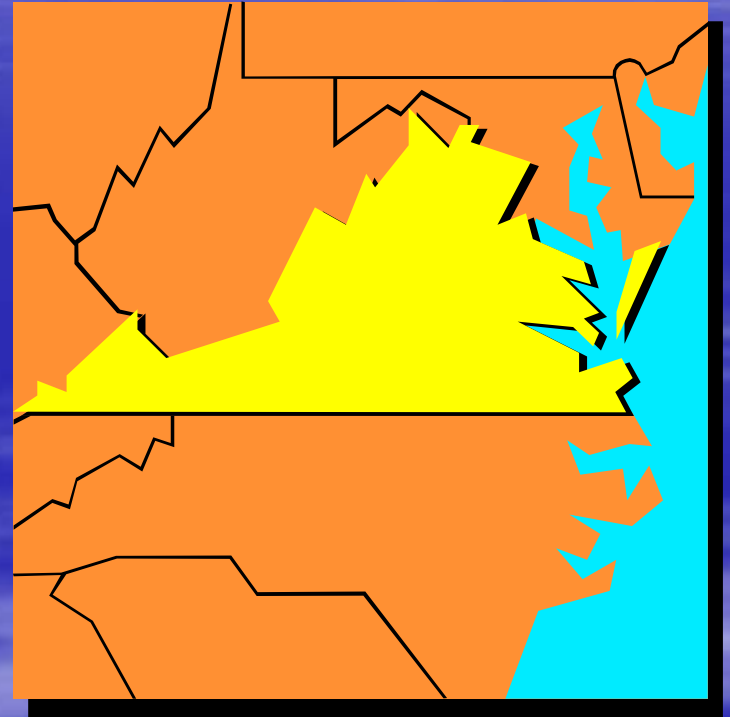
# A Phased Approach

- Stated explicitly in the US EPA Decision Rationale
  - Phase 1 – Anthropogenic Sources (Human Sources)
  - Phase 2 – Background or Natural Loading / Designated Use Consideration {Use Attainability Analysis}
  - Phase 3 – Monitoring (concurrent with phases 1 & 2)



# Commonwealth of Virginia

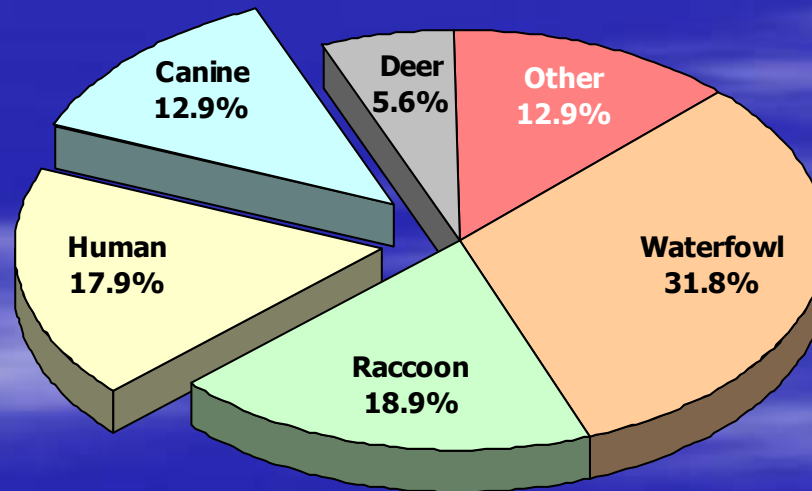
- Designated Use –  
“Primary Contact /  
Recreational Use”
- Regardless of
  - Size
  - Depth
  - Location
  - Actual Use





# A Phased Approach

- Stated explicitly in the Decision Rationale
- Phase 1 – Anthropogenic Sources or “Human Sources”



# Geometric Mean

(200 MPN/100mL – 5%)

	Reduction in Loadings from Existing Conditions (%)					% days Geometric Mean > than 190 MPN/100mL
	Waterfowl	Raccoon	Human	Dog	Other Wildlife	
Existing Conditions	0	0	0	0	0	65
Scenario 1	0	0	95	95	0	54
Scenario 2	50	50	95	95	0	41
Scenario 3	80	80	98	98	80	8
<b>Scenario 4</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>0</b>

# Phase 1 – Implementation Plan

- Target Anthropogenic Sources
- Reassess in fifth year
- VA DEQ
  - 6-year monitoring cycle
- Four Mile Run –
  - Trend Station at West Glebe Road (Bi-Monthly)
  - 2-year rotational monitoring  
(July 1, 2005 thru June 31, 2007 – Adds 2 stations)
  - Will include E. coli

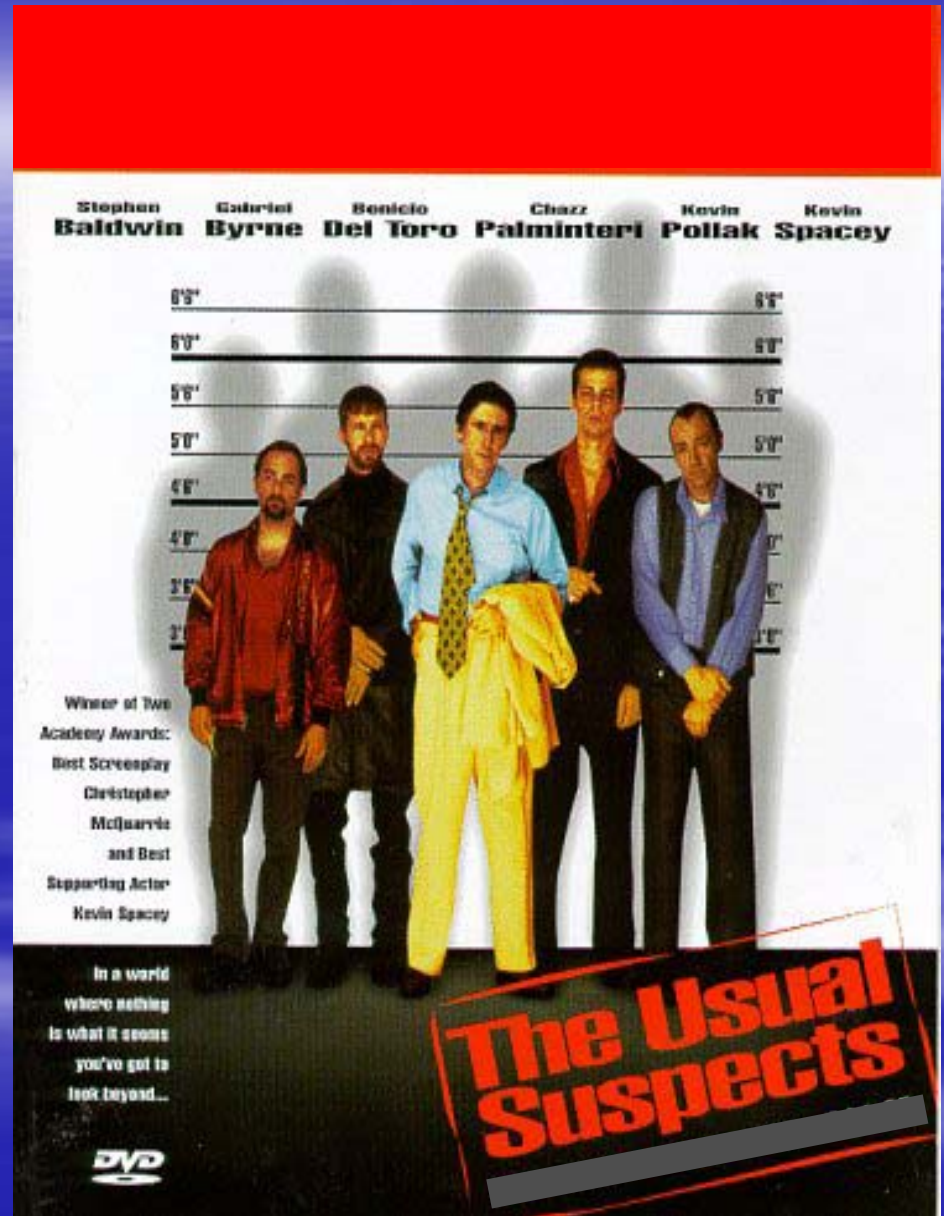


# What to do?



# Bacteria Sources

- Faulty Sanitary Sewers (illicit con., SSOs, exfiltration)
- Agricultural Practices
- Failing Septic Systems
- Combined Sewer Outfalls
- Domestic Pets
- Wildlife (including birds)



# Some Possible Solutions – “Best Management Practices”

## ■ Structural

- Treatment Facilities,  
e.g. Regional Stormwater Management Ponds, Sand filters, etc.
- Sanitary Sewer programs  
e.g. I&I, Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination, etc.
- Street Sweeping
- Dog Parks
- Stream Restoration / Daylighting Culverts
- Riparian Buffer Habitat

## ■ Non-structural

- Policy Changes,  
e.g. pooper scooper laws, land use & land management policies
- Education & Outreach,  
e.g. pooper scooper campaigns

# Technical Advisory Committee

- City of Alexandria
- Arlington County
- City of Falls Church
- Fairfax County
- Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
- Falls Church Village Society
- Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment
- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
- Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
- Northern Virginia Regional Commission





# What's the Timeline?

- ✓ May 27, 2003 1<sup>st</sup> Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting
- ✓ June 11, 2003 1<sup>st</sup> Public meeting
- September, 2003 2<sup>nd</sup> TAC meeting
- November, 2003 3<sup>rd</sup> TAC meeting to present a draft document
- December, 2003 2<sup>nd</sup> Public meeting to present revised draft
- January 2003 - ? Approvals, VA DEQ, County Boards, City Councils, US EPA Review



# Your Thoughts...

- In Which areas of the implementation plan should we focus?
- What “Best Management Practices” would you like to see addressed in the Implementation Plan?



# Questions & Discussion



- Bill Hicks, P.E.  
Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC)
  - (703) 642-4628
  - [bhicks@novaregion.org](mailto:bhicks@novaregion.org)



Department of Conservation & Recreation

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CONSERVING VIRGINIA'S NATURAL AND RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

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# *Memorandum of Agreement between DCR and DEQ on TMDL Development*

- DEQ has overall lead for all TMDL activities
- DCR has agreed to assist in development of nonpoint source (NPS) TMDLs
- DEQ retains responsibility for public participation and EPA approval process



# *Implementation Plan Development*

- DEQ is required by state legislation to develop implementation plan
- DCR through MOU has lead for NPS TMDL implementation plans
- DEQ, DCR, VA Dept. of Health and other state, federal and local agencies will coordinate on plan development



# *Implementation Plan Development*

- Implementation plan development needs to be local based and supported
- DCR staff will assist and be part of the process
- All stakeholders within the watershed should have the opportunity to participate in plan development/implementation

# *Integration with other Watershed Plans*

- Multiple water quality programs and activities
- Each has specific geographical boundaries and goals
- TMDL implementation will be coordinated with other plans
- Chesapeake Bay 2000 Agreement
- Tributary Strategies
- Local Comprehensive Plans
- Etc.



# *Funding*

- No specific funding source for TMDLs once IP is developed
- Localities/others can apply for state/federal grant funds
- TMDL implementation often grant priority, for example USEPA 319
- Potential funding sources in VA Guidance Manual for TMDL IP (June 03)

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